

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LAWS
OF THE
STATE OF MAINE

AS PASSED BY THE

ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

SECOND SPECIAL SESSION
June 19, 2018 to September 13, 2018

THE GENERAL EFFECTIVE DATE FOR
SECOND SPECIAL SESSION
NON-EMERGENCY LAWS IS
DECEMBER 13, 2018

ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION
December 5, 2018 to June 20, 2019

THE GENERAL EFFECTIVE DATE FOR
FIRST REGULAR SESSION
NON-EMERGENCY LAWS IS
SEPTEMBER 19, 2019

PUBLISHED BY THE REVISOR OF STATUTES
IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE MAINE REVISED STATUTES ANNOTATED,
TITLE 3, SECTION 163-A, SUBSECTION 4.

Augusta, Maine
2019

the regional adjustment for school administrative units under the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act. The study must include an update of the data that is used to calculate the regional adjustment to reflect the current economic environment and must include an analysis of how any adjustment to, or removal of, the regional adjustment in the funding formula would affect all school administrative units. The department shall submit the report to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs no later than January 15, 2020. The Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs may submit a bill to the Second Regular Session of the 129th Legislature.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation takes effect when approved.

Effective June 17, 2019.

CHAPTER 71
H.P. 1275 - L.D. 1796

**Resolve, To Study
Transmission Grid Reliability
and Rate Stability in Northern
Maine**

Sec. 1. Convene stakeholder group. Resolved: That the Governor's Energy Office shall convene a stakeholder group to identify and develop strategies to address the transmission grid reliability and electric rate stability for the northern Maine service territory. The stakeholder group must consist of representatives of:

1. The Governor's Energy Office;
2. The Public Utilities Commission;
3. The Office of the Public Advocate;
4. The Northern Maine Independent System Administrator;
5. A municipal government in northern Maine;
6. A large industrial electric utility customer located in northern Maine;
7. A trade association representing businesses located in northern Maine;
8. A trade association representing the forest products industry;
9. An investor-owned transmission and distribution utility serving northern Maine;
10. Two different consumer-owned transmission and distribution utilities located in northern Maine; and

11. An energy generator located in northern Maine.

Sec. 2. Review and recommendations. Resolved: That, in its review of transmission grid reliability and electric rate stability for the northern Maine service territory, the stakeholder group convened pursuant to section 1 shall, at minimum, address and develop recommendations concerning:

1. The continued need to assess reliability in the northern Maine service territory;
2. The shutdown of biomass plants in the region, such as those in Fort Fairfield and Ashland, that have in the past been essential to addressing reliability concerns;
3. The region's fuel security, competitive supply and rate volatility resulting from its reliance on generation resources in the region; and
4. Opportunities for transmission and nontransmission alternatives to address the current and projected reliability and rate stability needs of the region.

Sec. 3. Report. Resolved: That, no later than March 1, 2020, the stakeholder group shall submit to the Governor's Energy Office a report establishing the scope and priority of transmission grid reliability and electric rate stability issues for the northern Maine service territory, together with recommendations. The report must address the concerns identified in section 2 and recommend strategies that respond to those issues, including any recommended changes to the law or to the rules of the Public Utilities Commission. The Governor's Energy Office shall submit the report, together with any proposed implementing legislation, to the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology. Upon receipt and review of the report, the joint standing committee may report out a bill related to the report to the Second Regular Session of the 129th Legislature.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 72
S.P. 559 - L.D. 1694

**Resolve, To Determine
Compliance with Federal and
State Mental Health Parity
Laws**

Sec. 1. Determination of compliance with federal and state mental health parity laws. Resolved: That the Superintendent of Insurance shall determine the compliance of health insurance carriers in this State with the federal Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008 and the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 24,

sections 2325-A and 2329 and Title 24-A, sections 2749-C, 2842, 2843 and 4234-A. To determine compliance as required by this section, the superintendent may authorize a market conduct examination or use a survey tool to assess compliance.

Sec. 2. Report. Resolved: That, no later than January 30, 2020, the Superintendent of Insurance shall submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services with the results of the compliance assessment required in section 1 including any recommendations.

Sec. 3. Legislation. Resolved: That the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services may report out a bill to the Second Regular Session of the 129th Legislature based on the report provided in accordance with section 2.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 73

H.P. 1162 - L.D. 1610

Resolve, To Modify the Deed for a Parcel of Property in the Town of Carrabassett Valley

Sec. 1. Resolve 1999, c. 41, §4, amended. Resolved: That Resolve 1999, c. 41, §4, as amended by PL 1999, c. 790, Pt. Q, §1 and affected by §2, is further amended to read:

Sec. 4. Deed and restrictions. Resolved: That the property must be conveyed by quit claim deed without covenants, subject to the following deed restrictions: The Town of Carrabassett Valley shall in perpetuity retain title to the property and may not sell or otherwise transfer any interest, in whole or in part, in the property except that the Town of Carrabassett Valley may lease portions of the property as long as the uses are consistent with the uses specified in this resolve. The property must remain open and available for use and enjoyment by the public at large. Use of the property must be dedicated for purposes of public outdoor recreation, including, but not limited to: natural history study; hiking; camping, ~~other than in motor vehicles~~; cross-country skiing; hunting; fishing; fisheries and wildlife management; skating; timber management and harvesting under a management plan prepared by a licensed professional forester; and attendant roads and parking. The property must be maintained in an essentially natural and undeveloped condition, except that up to 25 contiguous acres in the aggregate, including any development in existence on the effective date of this resolve, may be developed for any municipal facility. The following uses are expressly prohibited: residential development of any type; development for overnight accommodations, except camping, including commercial camping if

development plans for commercial camping are approved by the State; development for any type of commercial service center, shops, restaurants or other commercial development; or development for any purpose that will change the natural character of the area, except that those uses presently made of the Outdoor and Touring Center located on the property may continue. If the Town of Carrabassett Valley fails to comply with any of the conditions or restrictions, in whole or in part, contained in this resolve, the State may give written notice to the Town of Carrabassett Valley, and if the Town of Carrabassett Valley fails to comply within 30 days, then the title to the property reverts to the State; such a reversion may not be effective until the State records a notice of the reversion in the Franklin County Registry of Deeds.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 74

H.P. 1093 - L.D. 1491

Resolve, To Study Consolidation of Payment of Cost-of-living Tax Credits

Sec. 1. Study of consolidation of payment of cost-of-living tax credits; working group established. Resolved: That the Working Group to Study Consolidation of Payment of Cost-of-living Tax Credits, referred to in this resolve as "the working group," is established to make recommendations to the Legislature regarding the most efficient and effective means to consolidate application and payment of cost-of-living tax credits, including recommendations for making such payments available on a periodic advance basis throughout the year. For the purposes of this section, "cost-of-living tax credits" means the following individual income tax credits under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 36, chapter 822, which assist Maine taxpayers with basic living expenses: the sales tax fairness credit, the property tax fairness credit, the credit for child care expenses, the credit for adult dependent care expenses and any similar credit identified by the working group.

1. Membership. The working group consists of 9 members appointed by the Associate Commissioner for Tax Policy within the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of Revenue Services, referred to in this resolve as "the associate commissioner":

A. Two representatives of organizations with expertise in matters related to accessing income supports, assisting low-income populations with tax filing or tax policy affecting adults with low incomes;